5.	Consideration of the Resolution seeking extension Of President's Rule in the State of Manipur imposed Vide the proclamation issued on June 2, 2001 under Article 356 of the Constitution.	2 Hours

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that a letter has been received from Shri Mrinal Sen stating that he is unable to attend the House due to pre occupation with his film production work. Shri Sen has, therefore, requested for the grant of Leave of Absence *w.e.f.* 20th November, 2001 till the end of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House for remaining absent from 20th November, 2001 till the end of the current Session.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Arrival in Kabul of the Indian Diplomatic Mission to Afghanistan

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I am happy to inform hon. Members that a diplomatic Mission to Afghanistan landed at Bagram Airfield near Kabul at 0955 hrs. this morning.

This Mission Team comprises Special Envoy for Afghanistan, senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, interpreters and other essential staff. It also has a medical and nursing component which will stay on in Kabul with the Liaison Officer of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Members are no doubt aware that the Indian Embassy in Kabul closed on September 26, 1996. This is the first Indian diplomatic Mission, thereafter.

THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION (INDIA) TRANSFER OF FUNDS (REPEAL) BILL, 2001.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bill to repeal the St. John Ambulance Association (India) Transfer of Funds Act, 1956.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. C. P. THAKUR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Storming of the Disputed Site at Ayodhya By VHP Thereby Flouting Supreme Court Directives and the action taken by Government thereon

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : सभापति महोदय, मैं विश्व हिन्दू परिषद द्वारा उच्चतम न्यायालय के निदेशों की अवज्ञा करते हुए अयोध्या में विवादास्पद ढांचे पर धावा बोलने तथा इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्रवाई की ओर गृह मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं।

गृह मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी) : सभापति महोदय, मैं चाहूंगा कि मैं हिन्दी में जवाब दूं लेकिन चूंकि पहला नाम डा. दसारी नारायण राव का था, इस कारण जवाब अंग्रेजी में तैयार हुआ है। अगर आपकी अनुमति हो तो मैं अंग्रेजी का जवाब पढ़कर सुना दूं।

This Government is of the view that the problem in Ayodhya can be solved either through mutual consensus among all the concerned or on the basis of adjudication by the court.

Let me briefly narrate the facts of the incident which took place in Ayodhya on 17th October, 2001. According to the report received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, S/Shri Ashok Singhal, S.C. Dikshit alongwith some 20 other persons who had come through the gangway to have *darshan* made their way through the bars of the gangway and entered the isolation cordon where devotees are normally not allowed. On receiving the information, senior police and district officials reached the spot immediately and on their arrival they found that these persons were sitting inside the premises and singing hymns and raising slogans. All these persons were persuaded by the local officials to vacate the premises. A non-cognisable FIR was registered against them under section 186 IPC for obstructing public servants in the discharge of their public functions.

Honourable Members who have given notice have said that by 'storming' the disputed site, the VHP have flouted the Supreme Court directives. I would like to give a brief background with regard to the Supreme Court's pronouncements in this regard. The Union Government acquired the entire Ram Janma Bhoomi - Babri Masjid premises in the aftermath of the incident in Ayodhya on 6th December, 1992 through the Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Act, 1993. The Ordinance came into being on 7th January, 1993 which was subsequently replaced by an Act of